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Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition

Kansas SAFE KIDS, Inc., is a nonprofit Coalition of sixty-five statewide and regional organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries to Kansas children ages 0-14. Kansas SAFE KIDS is affiliated with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and is a federally recognized tax-exempt organization. Kansas SAFE KIDS was named the National Coalition of the Year in 2004.

Preventable injury remains the leading killer of Kansas children ages 1-14, taking more lives than any other cause, including diseases, homicide and suicide. We know that prevention works. The unintentional injury death rate for Kansas children age 0-14 in the ten years following the inception of Kansas SAFE KIDS has decreased 24% when compared to the previous ten years.

The primary programs of Kansas SAFE KIDS include:

BUCKLE UP

The BUCKLE UP program is designed to increase the number of children properly protected by a child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt. Since the program began, 14,267 child safety seats, booster seats, and special needs child seats have been distributed by the Coalition to low-income families. The Coalition operates two Mobile Child Safety Seat Check Up Vans to facilitate child safety seat checks in local communities. The vans have traveled over 45,000 miles to 470 community events. In the last five years, 26,561 seats have been checked at 1,083 van and community check up events. In addition to scheduled events, permanent child passenger safety fitting stations are operating in 83 locations around the state. The Coalition also sponsors, in partnership with State Farm, the Bucks for Buckles Program that rewards drivers and passengers who are "caught" properly restrained. The BUCKLE UP program has been credited with 21 lives saved in the past five years. The program is the recipient of the Excellence in Accountability Award from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and General Motors.

CYCLE SMART

The CYCLE SMART program is designed to increase the number of children who are protected by helmets when engaging in wheel sports by making reduced-price helmets and an educational program available to Kansas children. Since the program's inception in 1993, more than 79,000 helmets have been distributed to Kansas children. The *Ready to Roll* bike rodeo kit is made available for local community events. The program has been credited with 10 lives saved. The program is a recipient of the National Bell Sportsmanship Award in 2000, 2001, and 2004 and the Secretary's Award for Excellence from Health and Human Services.

SAFE KIDS GET ALARMED®

The GET ALARMED® program is designed to increase the number of Kansas homes with young children that are equipped with working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Participating communities distribute and install detectors and replacement batteries in low-income homes. Over 13,000 detectors have been distributed since implementation of the program. The Coalition also works to develop fire/burn injury prevention programs in targeted areas of the state. The program is a recipient of the First Alert McLean Stevenson National Award.

Body Walk

Kansas SAFE KIDS partners with the Kansas State Department of Education to sponsor Body Walk for K-5th grade students. Body Walk is presented at over 100 schools throughout the state each year, interacting with 30,000 students. During the Body Walk, students learn about the brain and how important a helmet is in protecting the brain from injury. Each participating school receives bike helmets to award as incentive prizes to students.

SAFE KIDS Walk This Way

One of the major events in this pedestrian safety program is Walk Your Child to School Day, an annual statewide safe pedestrian event targeting K-3 age children that encourages adults and children to walk to or from school together. Community Action Kits and student incentives are made available to communities and schools wishing to participate in the event. Since the program began, over 76,000 children ages 5-9 have participated.

SAFE KIDS GET IN THE GAME

The SAFE KIDS GET IN THE GAME program focuses on the gear kids need to keep safe while participating in sports activities. The Gear Up Games are incorporated into Kansas Kids Fitness Day, which reaches over 17,000 third grade students at 42 sites across the state each May.

Emergency Response Training

The Coalition operates a bi-lingual interactive 9-1-1 simulator that allows children to actively learn how to properly react during an emergency situation and how to properly use 9-1-1 in their area. In the last two years, over 6,400 children and adults completed the simulation.

Public Policy/Advocacy

The Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition advocates for public policy changes at the National, State, and Local levels and adopts a formal policy platform and policy priorities on an annual basis. In 2004, the city of Lawrence passed the first bicycle helmet ordinance in the state. The Coalition co-sponsors Child Advocacy Day, which provides over 600 advocates the opportunity to learn about Kansas' injury prevention policy issues.

Local SAFE KIDS Coalitions and Chapters

Kansas currently has five local SAFE KIDS Coalitions: Wichita Area SAFE KIDS, Johnson County SAFE KIDS, Shawnee County SAFE KIDS, Metro KC SAFE KIDS and Douglas County SAFE KIDS. In addition, the Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition has 25 local chapter affiliates located in Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Clay, Dickinson, Doniphan, Ford, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Marion, Meade, Montgomery, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Republic, Rice, Saline, Smith, Wabaunsee and Woodson Counties, as well as Chanute, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Norton, and Pittsburg.